

Message Text

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SUBJECT: UNESCO MEETING ON DRAFT RECOMMENDATIONS ON PRESERVATION OF HISTORIC SITES AND MONUMENTS, WARSAW, FEBRUARY 9-17

1. GOVERNMENTAL EXPERTS FROM 43 COUNTRIES, INCLUDING ARABS AND ISRAELIS, WHO FOR LAST NINE DAYS WERE WORKING HERE ON A DRAFT RECOMMENDATION ESTABLISHING INTERNATIONAL STANDARDS FOR THE SAFEGUARDING OF HISTORIC QUARTERS, TOWNS, AND SITES AS PART OF A MODERN ENVIRONMENT, CONCLUDED THEIR MEETING TODAY BY ADOPTING UNANIMOUSLY, BY ACCLAMATION, BOTH A DRAFT RECOMMENDATION AND THE FINAL REPORT CONTAINING THE RECORDS OF MEETING.

2. FROM THE US POINT OF VIEW, AS IS PROBABLY TRUE FOR OTHER PARTICIPANTS, THE MEETING WAS A SUCCESS. ALL OUR POSITIONS WERE ACHIEVED, I.E., THE DOCUMENT: (A) TAKES ACCOUNT OF THE SPECIAL PROBLEMS OF FEDERAL STATES; (B) DISTINGUISHES BETWEEN POWERS OF GOVERNMENT AND THE PROPERTY RIGHTS OF INDIVIDUALS; (C) USES THE NEUTER "GENDER", ("HUMAN BEINGS") INSTEAD OF ORIGINAL MASCULINE "GENDER", AND, ABOVE ALL, (D) DOES NOT CONTAIN ANY PO-

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LITICAL ISSUE EXTRANEIOUS TO THE TECHNICAL CHARACTER OF

THE MEETING.

3. DURING THE CONCLUDING STATEMENTS, IRAQI EXPERT DR. ISA SALMAN, DIRECTOR-GENERAL OF ANTIQUITIES, MADE A BRIEF, VERY LOW-KEY INTERVENTION EXPRESSING APPRECIATION FOR THE VERY PRODUCTIVE MEETING AND ALSO "REMINDING OF A RESPONSIBILITY OF INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY FOR PRESERVING THE HISTORICAL HERITAGE THAT BELONGS TO ALL MANKIND IN THE OCCUPIED CITY OF JERUSALEM".

4. AFTER CLOSURE OF THE MEETING, USDELEGATION (WARVARIV) HAD LONG TALK WITH THE ISRAELI EXPERT, PROF. BIRAN, WHO CONCLUDED THAT THE DRAFT RECOMMENDATION IS FULLY ACCEPTABLE AND THAT THE MEETING AS A WHOLE WAS AN "UNEXPECTED SUCCESS". THIS CONCLUSION IS SHARED BY THE POLISH HOSTS, UNESCO SECRETARIAT OFFICIALS, AND ALL OTHER DELEGATIONS WITH WHICH WE WERE IN CLOSE TOUCH BEFORE AND DURING THE MEETING.
DAVIES

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